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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 391st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 19 April 1991, at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.10 p.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 45/77 (continued)

(a) WORK ON THE SUBSTANTIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 45/77 (continued) (A/AC.159/L.61)

Draft provisional rules of procedure

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, following informal consultations, agreement had been reached on some of the outstanding issues and the Committee could now move forward.

2. It had been agreed that a new sentence should be added to draft rule 15. The sentence would read as follows: "The report may include a declaration." Accordingly, there was no longer any need for draft rule 51 bis. Draft rule 50 as contained in document A/AC.159/L.61 would remain unchanged.

3. After extensive discussion of the new version of draft rule 31, which had been submitted the previous day, it had been agreed that the square brackets in paragraph 1 should be removed. In paragraph 2, the wording contained in square brackets would be deleted. Paragraphs 3 and 4 would remain unchanged, and in paragraph 5, the bracketed portion would be deleted. Paragraph 6, all of which was within square brackets, would be given further consideration at the next session.

4. Ms. COURTNEY (Australia) said that her delegation had not joined the consensus on paragraphs 1 and 2. She would need to consult with her Government before she could agree to the text of draft rule 31.

5. Mr. JAIN (India) pointed out that whether the text of paragraph 6 remained in draft rule 31 or was moved to draft rule 16, either as a separate sentence or as an addition in square brackets, was not a matter of substance. He could accept either alternative.

6. The CHAIRMAN, taking note of the views of the delegation of Australia, said that there seemed to be general agreement on all the draft rules of procedure except for the parts remaining in brackets.

7. Ms. COURTNEY (Australia) asked whether the Chairman proposed to draft another summation of the status of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the July session or whether document A/AC.159/L.61 would undergo a full revision.

8. Mr. JAIN (India) said that his delegation would prefer a full revision of the document. The Committee could then clear up remaining areas of disagreement at the next session and proceed to the adoption of the provisional rules of procedure.

(Mr. Jain, India)

9. The Chairman did not need the approval of all members of the Committee in order to produce such a limited distribution document. The document should, of course, reflect all changes and reservations, and the prefatory note should include remaining points of disagreement.

10. Ms. COURTNEY (Australia) said that document A/AC.159/L.61 had been prepared by the Secretariat in response to the Committee's request for draft provisional rules of procedure. It would be inaccurate to issue a revised document under the same title, as the text had since been modified by delegations. The only other document regarding the rules of procedure had been the Chairman's summation, which had been requested by consensus at the previous session to cover all new points revised.

11. It would not be possible to agree on rules of procedure until the nature and structure of the Conference on the Indian Ocean was known. When the rules of procedure eventually were finalized, they would have to be adopted as an organic whole. An extensive Chairman's summary would be more useful than a Secretariat document.

12. Mr. AMBEYI-LIGABO (Kenya) said that the Committee had been working on the basis of document A/AC.159/L.61 and had made revisions to that document. Points of disagreement were reflected in the material still contained in brackets, and the views and reservations of all delegations had been noted. The fact that the document was reissued did not mean that the reservations would be forgotten. The Chairman could also prepare another summation.

13. Mr. SHA Zukang (China) said that, in his view, the main thing was to preserve a factual record of the discussions held during the current session. As a compromise, he suggested that the document should be revised and issued together with a Chairman's note reflecting the concerns of the Australian delegation and reporting on the status of the draft provisional rules of procedure.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would take note of the suggestions by delegations in respect of the revision of document A/AC.159/L.61.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

15. After noting that the Committee had made significant progress towards fulfilling its mandate under General Assembly resolution 45/77 and stressing that recent world events had shown to all the usefulness of working within the United Nations framework, the CHAIRMAN declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.